

SUMMER 2007

O·B·U

m a g a z i n e



NEW

PLACE.

Same Mission.



The year 2007 has been one of achievement and anticipation. As you will read in this issue, our International Graduate School is already achieving positive results. The IGS is off to a solid start, building on some of the long-standing keys to OBU's historic success. The MBA degree program offers personal interaction with committed faculty and fellow students. It also offers the opportunity to engage our diverse world through international study and relevant, practical experiences. The graduate program is an extension of OBU and it is reflecting our core values in a new marketplace.

Anticipation of the opening of our new recreation and wellness center is growing each day. We are planning a pre-opening dedication for November 9, and it looks like our students will start enjoying the many resources of this facility by the end of November. Workers are striving to finish the major construction process, which has coincided with a record-breaking year of rainfall for Oklahoma. The center is the largest capital project in our history, and it will be the centerpiece of our fitness program for many decades.

The steadfast support of OBU alumni, friends, faculty and staff allows us to continue celebrating achievement while we anticipate great days ahead. Thank you for being a part of the OBU family. I hope you can appreciate the role you play in helping OBU fulfill its mission as a Christian university.

Mark Brister
OBU President



Glass walls lend to the spacious, open feel of the recreation and wellness center, which will include three basketball/volleyball courts, a climbing wall, cardiovascular workout equipment, and a variety of other fitness resources.

On The Cover: Students in the initial cohort for the OBU International Graduate School MBA degree program relax in the lobby of the Momentum Building. The OBU IGS graduate courses are offered in the downtown Oklahoma City building, at 111 N. Harrison.

OBU MAGAZINE STAFF

Summer 2007 | Vol. 3 • No. 4

Editor

Marty O'Gwynn

Writers

Chris Doyle, Julie Nall McGowan

Creative Services

Chele Marker

Photographer

Bill Pope

View OBU Magazine Online

www.okbu.edu/obumagazine

Contact OBU Magazine

obumagazine@okbu.edu

405.878.2111

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

President

Dr. Mark Brister

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Deborah Blue

Senior Vice President for Business Affairs

Randy Smith

Senior Vice President for Development

John Patterson

CONTACT INFORMATION

(area code 405)

Academic Center.....	878.2023
Admissions	878.2033
Alumni	878.2706
Business Office.....	878.2020
Campus Ministry	878.2377
Career Services.....	878.2416
Development.....	878.2703
Mabee Learning Center	878.2251
President's Office.....	878.2002
Public Relations.....	878.2107
Residential Life	878.2404
Student Development.....	878.2406
Student Financial Services	878.2016
Switchboard	275.2850

OBU Magazine is published quarterly by the Public Relations Office, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, Oklahoma. It is mailed to nearly 40,000 alumni, parents and friends of OBU throughout the country and world. To change your mailing address send an email to update@okbu.edu; write OBU Magazine, OBU Box 61275, 500 West University, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74804; or call 405.878.2706.

In compliance with federal law, including the provision of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Oklahoma Baptist University does not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, or military service in its administration of educational policies, programs, or activities, its admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic or other university administered programs; or employment.

O·B·U

Summer 2007

m a g a z i n e

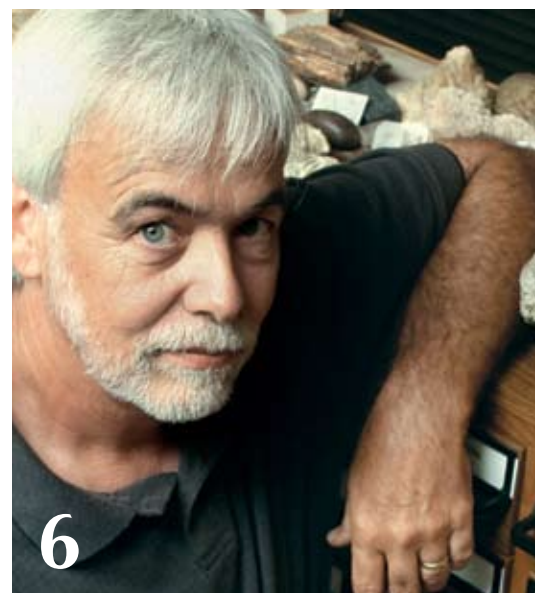
features

2 New Place. Same Mission.

A new MBA degree program based in Oklahoma City is expanding OBU's scope of influence with graduate-level study in an urban setting. It is the first offering for the University's International Graduate School, and some see it as an appropriate step in fulfilling OBU's mission of Christian higher education.

6 A Complex Order

Dr. John McWilliams received OBU's Distinguished Teacher Award at Commencement in May. It was a fitting honor for a long-time educator, but the route he took to being recognized for excellence at the collegiate level is a little more complex than the average journey.



departments

10 Profiles in Excellence

Two war veterans, an executive coach, a community volunteer leader, a Baptist music leader, and a detention center educator are among the OBU Alumni Association's latest award recipients.

22 Campus Life

Continued national recognition, Welcome Week, a strong showing in teacher certification exams, and the arrival of seven new faculty members are some of the recent highlights on Bison Hill.

25 Alumni News

You can help OBU students on the path to career success through the Bison Network.

27 Alumni Notes

Catch up on the life and times of OBU alums from across the years.



NEW PLACE.

Same Mission.



Seeing students eating dinner together is not unusual on the OBU campus. Seeing them eating a meal in the classroom is not so common. But the norms are a little different on the University's newest campus. It is located in downtown Oklahoma City, and while it builds on a lot of OBU's traditional strengths, it offers a unique setting and a whole different level of academic challenge.



Building from a strong reputation for undergraduate programs, OBU started classes in its International Graduate School in early 2007. The first offering through the IGS, a master of business administration degree program, is expanding OBU's mission. It's a new program which is based on a proven model, yet rooted in an innovative framework, according to University officials.

"It's about students having an impact in the world for Christ," said Marian Combs, dean of the OBU IGS. "That's reflected in every course."

Each course also reflects a commitment to the exchange of ideas, not just between professor and student, but among the students themselves.

"Our students tell me probably half of the quality of the experience is gained from the interchange between the people in the class," said Combs. "That was intentional from the beginning. It sets us apart. We are not a lecture-and-test program. Each course is designed to be very active and application-oriented."



“It is a sense of mission. Business is at the center of culture worldwide.”

The majority of courses are taught by faculty members from OBU’s Paul Dickinson School of Business. Combs said they carry with them the same commitment to personalized instruction they offer on the Shawnee campus. That helps build on an environment where interaction is valued.

The interaction for OBU graduate students begins inside a building which is one of the first to be renovated in an urban renewal project on the east side of downtown Oklahoma City. Combs joined the OBU staff in the summer of 2006. One of her first steps was to identify a home for the graduate program. Her journey led to the Momentum Building at 111 North Harrison. Formerly a base for Mistletoe Trucking, the three-level structure is now owned by Momentum Partners and managed by UrbanWorks, a local development group committed to helping the city’s Triangle District – just north of Bricktown – re-emerge as a business, retail and residential community.

Combs and Bert Belanger, UrbanWorks’ president, worked out an arrangement for OBU to inhabit the top floor of the building, and utilize a common conference room and reception area on the main floor. The joint effort has helped both parties, as OBU has a highly convenient location, just yards from I-235, and the developer is providing a home for a 97-year-old Oklahoma business.

The convenient location gives students the opportunity to get to their classroom in time for dinner together on Monday evenings, the main night for classes. That bolsters the collegiality of the cohort group, said Combs. Easy access is just one aspect of a concerted plan to offer an MBA program which is “relevant, convenient and practical.”

“Those are three notable attributes which will be evident in our MBA degree program,” said OBU President Mark Brister at the IGS grand opening. “We also will carry those aspects into our future graduate programs.”

For Combs, the relevance is found in the commitment to a global perspective.

“A global perspective is essential for doing business in today’s world,” she said. “A three-credit-hour class on international business will be immediately followed by a 10-day trip to France and Germany in January.”

That inaugural trip will include a visit to the European Parliament, a concentration camp, and meeting with leaders at companies, learning more about cultural differences and challenges in international markets.

“The international component is something unique, drawing people to us who have the intention of doing something abroad or working at firms with global components,” said Combs.

“There are some benefits to offering a new program,” said Dr. Brister. “We are not tied to a long-standing formula, and we sensed a need to bring something innovative to the marketplace.”

That innovation is still tied to OBU’s historic mission, according to an alumnus who has taught seminars in the new program.

“I don’t think OBU launched into an MBA program primarily because it is a money-making deal. It is a sense of mission,” said Don Overton, ’89, a business consultant with *idynamx*. “Business is at the center of culture worldwide. If we choose not to be effective in this, we are choosing to not have a voice in what is arguably the most open, vibrant language on the planet: business.”

“This is blending academic excellence and faith,” said Overton. “That’s the heritage of OBU.”

Combs, meanwhile, stresses that an MBA degree is practical for a variety of endeavors.

"I think there is a misconception that an MBA is a continuation of an undergraduate business degree," said Combs. "An MBA is good for leadership in any organization. It offers training in strategic planning, marketing, budgeting, and organizational dynamics."

The composition of the program's initial cohort echos Combs' claim. The group includes social workers, administrative staff from educational entities, and leaders from financial fields.

"Everyone I talk to is within a circle of influence for a potential student," said Combs. She's been talking to a lot of people, too. As soon as she accepted the position, moving from Flagstaff, Ariz., she became active in the Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce.

"We want to increase the visibility of OBU in downtown Oklahoma City. Starting with an MBA program was particularly appropriate."

She also has been involved with the Oklahoma Business Ethics Consortium. The OBU IGS was a sponsor for the OBEC convention and Dr. Rich Rudebock, dean of OBU's School of Business, was part of a panel discussion at the meeting.

While the MBA degree program is the main OBU IGS offering, OBU is using the Momentum site for a variety of other programs. Leadership development workshops, GMAT preparation workshops, business etiquette training, and tax and estate planning are some of the educational opportunities which have been offered.

Plans are in progress for expanding graduate offerings at the site, also. "We have applied for accreditation for a master of science in nursing degree from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools," said Combs.

The Momentum Building is just blocks away from the medical corridor near Oklahoma's Capitol. OBU leaders see that proximity and the University's historic strength in undergraduate nursing education as positive factors in pursuing a new graduate program.

Nurses may soon be gathering for dinner at the IGS classroom in the near future, exchanging ideas while they work to expand their professional capabilities. It would be another new offering tied to a traditional strength. It is another opportunity to expand OBU's mission.

"The Judeo-Christian ethic would challenge all of us to be stewards of our lives," said Overton. "Stewarding our opportunities for the kingdom is a big deal." ♦

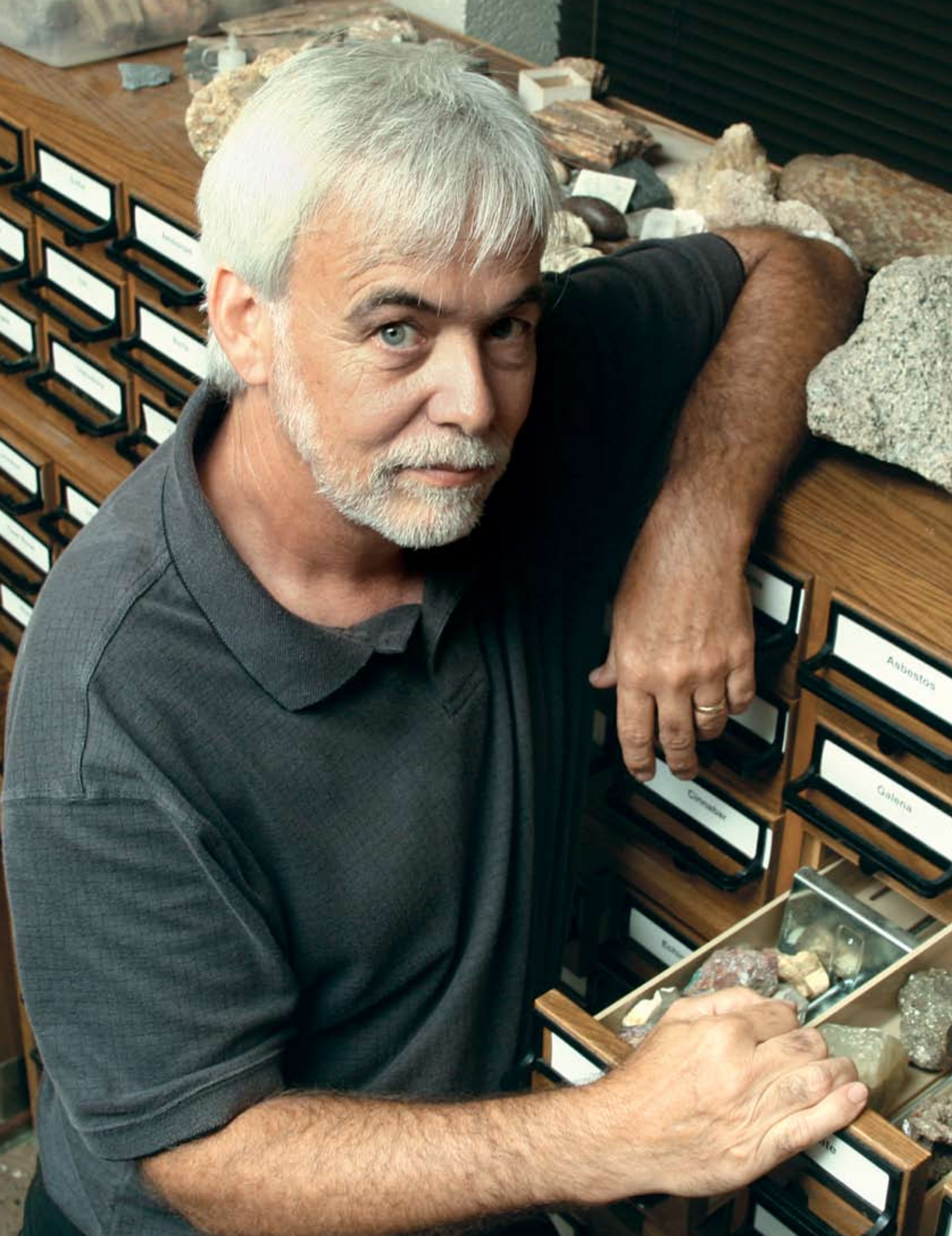


The OBU IGS MBA

OBU's 18-month MBA degree program includes classes one night per week and one Saturday per course. The program's first class, which started in February 2007, is scheduled to graduate in September 2008. Courses are taught by faculty from OBU's Paul Dickinson School of Business.

"Our program offers the quickest start-to-completion for any MBA program offered in downtown Oklahoma City," said Marian Combs, dean of the OBU International Graduate School. "We believe professionals in the metro area will find our program to be particularly appealing."

For more information about the program, visit igs.okbu.edu or call 405.319.8470, or email mbadirector@igs.okbu.edu.





A Complex ORDER

John McWilliams loves to teach about
order, detail and complexity.

When it comes to his own experience, the
detail and complexity are there.

He accepts the order of his life by faith.

In his eighth year on the OBU faculty, the assistant professor of natural science said his arrival on Bison Hill was part of God's providence.

"I was at the right place at the right time," said Dr. McWilliams. "I enjoy teaching. I'd rather be doing that than just about anything."

When he says "anything," he speaks with a significant degree of experience. A native of the southwestern Arkansas town of Prescott, McWilliams headed to the University of Arkansas in the mid-1970s to study medicine. He didn't like the pre-med program as much as he hoped, and he changed his major to music. But when he realized his future wife, Sherry, also was planning a career in music, he decided one band director in the family would be sufficient. Hence, he wound up as a biology education major.

The third choice turned out to be a good one. After just seven years on the OBU faculty, McWilliams received the University's Distinguished Teacher Award in May 2007, the highest honor for an OBU educator.

He started his teaching career in 1980 as a science instructor at Shiloh Christian School in Springdale, Ark. He became chair of the school's science department in 1988 and filled that role until 1996, when he left the state's largest Christian school to complete his master's and doctoral degrees from Arkansas. The choice was somewhat challenging for an educator in his 40s, but McWilliams simply describes it as "a doable thing."

He and Sherry, married since 1976, had three young children. In 1996, Angela was 15, Stephen was 12 and Bethany was nearing her fourth birthday. But the family moved ahead with the ambitious plan, while Sherry taught at Shiloh, John focused on his studies.

He completed a graduate degree in plant pathology in 1997. He taught as an adjunct instructor at John Brown University for

one year, then was an interim assistant professor at JBU for one more year before coming to OBU. He finished his Ed.D. degree in higher education in 2001, the year after he moved into his office in W.P. Wood Science Building.

His background in secondary education gives him a unique skill set to work with OBU's science education majors.

"High school prepared me for here," he said of his years at Shiloh.

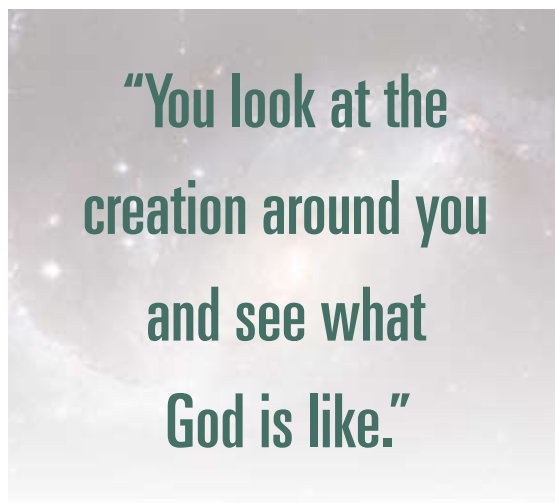
McWilliams supervises about a dozen OBU students planning for careers as science teachers. He also works with 40 to 60 elementary education majors. His blend of expertise and experience helps students beyond the campus, too. For seven years he has worked with Oklahoma's state review program, supervising first-year school teachers across Oklahoma, evaluating and helping the new instructors.

His role today gives him a greater appreciation for the way a college educator can affect the future. By helping new teachers to love science and adopt a sound philosophy, he can see his work multiplied.

"You have the ability to influence hundreds of thousands of students," he said.

Making a positive difference in the lives of others is not a new goal for McWilliams. He is a licensed Baptist minister, and has served as a youth pastor and supply preacher. That is just another part of the complexity of his career which has resulted in an ordered progression even though it is marked with significant changes.

To hear him explain his career, one gets the sense there is a confluence of interests and gifts. His teaching allows him to help others. His field of expertise allows him to learn more about his Creator. He bases his desire to teach science on a concept Paul conveyed in Romans 1:20: "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."



"You look at the creation around you and see what God is like," he said. "You see the order and detail. Students who don't really like science have seen it and they ask questions. There is too much complexity to explain."

McWilliams' attention is riveted by the complexity found in nature. He continually finds ways to place his students in practical learning environments. It comes naturally for the product of Arkansas swamp lands.

About the same time he joined the faculty, OBU completed the purchase of 64 acres on the north side of MacArthur Street, expanding the campus with land which contained three ponds and scores of trees. In 2001, McWilliams launched the "North 40 Outdoor Classroom" on the land, developing curriculum and taking students into the field to strengthen their science education. That setting was used until 2006, when construction projects disrupted the outdoor classroom. Since then, McWilliams has worked with the Shawnee Conservation District to develop a new outdoor classroom just off U.S. 177 on the west side of town.

His practical interest does not stop when class sessions end. McWilliams has worked with his own gardens for many years. He operates a half-acre garden at his home near Dale. That was a down-sizing from the three-acre garden he tended while living in northwest Arkansas. The garden has a high concentration of peas, though they aren't the garden variety kind. McWilliams is an expert in heirloom seeds and he has 600 varieties of peas.

"My family relied heavily on peas," he said of his parents and grandparents. "Some seeds were going extinct."

He has countered the extinction trend over the past 15 years, collecting a variety of peas and looking for those resistant to pea viruses. He is a popular expert on heirloom gardening and writes for trade publications.

Cataloging 600 varieties of a vegetable can be a complex task. It is just another part of McWilliams' story, one that has a lot of twists and turns, but has maintained an overarching sense of order. ♦



McWilliams uses outdoor class sessions, like this one on OBU's north campus in 2004, to demonstrate nature's complexity.

On the Mission Field at home

An ongoing scholarship fund at Oklahoma Baptist University bears the names of Bolich and his late wife, Eunice. The former pastor and evangelist gives to his alma mater through what he believes is funding from God.

Born on a farm in Missouri, Bolich enlisted in the army when he was 17. He served during World War II and fought in Europe “from D-Day to the end of the war.” He received two bronze medals for fighting at D-Day and in the Battle of the Bulge.

Bolich continued to serve in the Army reserves after the war, stationed at Fort Sill. While in the Lawton area, he got a degree at Cameron University. Once he learned about OBU and its emphasis on missions, he moved to Shawnee and started a second degree.

“I lived on North Kickapoo in one of the new apartment buildings,” said Bolich, who attended OBU in 1952 while pastor of a church in Francis, a small community about 10 miles northeast of Ada.

“I was single and had an old junked car,” he said. “One time when I was driving to church, a tie rod came off and I went over the bank. Somebody picked me up and brought me to Valley View Hospital.”

A “nice, lovely” nurse took care of Darrell while he was recovering from his accident. After he healed, he asked the nurse if she’d marry him.

“She said, ‘I’ll think about it,’” he remembered. “But she didn’t think about it very long.”

In April 1953, Darrell and Eunice were married. She continued to work as a nurse in Ada, while he preached and studied.

Darrell’s education was interrupted when he enlisted to fight in the Korean War. After that tour of duty, the Bolichs moved to California. Darrell graduated from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in 1955.

During his career, he led churches and did evangelistic work in Oklahoma, Florida, Washington and California. Continuing in ministry on the west coast, Darrell also worked for the California Department of Corrections for 16 years.

He and Eunice wanted to be missionaries, but could not go overseas because of her health. But Darrell’s passion for missions continued to burn.



Darrell Bolich, ex '52 and his dog, Jack.

*Stories of people who demonstrate faithful giving are inspiring.
Darrell Bolich has his own story.*

He constantly prayed about how he could do mission work. One night, God answered Darrell's prayers.

"God told me to give my money to missions," he said. "That will help reach more people than if I went myself."

While working for the Department of Corrections, Bolich wrote a book titled *The ABCs of Christianity*. His intentions were to help Christians understand the key teachings of the faith.

"I wanted to share why Christians believe what we believe," he said. "I've read a lot of books. Many of them are just on one subject. I took the major doctrines of the Bible and wrote a chapter on each of them."

Bolich took his final work to a publisher who told him it was "the most unique book ever to cross his desk." Copies of the book are in the libraries of his alma maters.

Soon after the book was published, Bolich suffered a stroke that ended his career with the state penal system. This put Darrell and Eunice in dire straits financially.

"I was terminated without an examination," he said. "I did not get any state compensation for disability."

However, Darrell remained confident in the Lord. He knew God would take care of him, even in the drastic situation.

"I prayed, 'Lord what am I going to do? I can't go back to work,'" he said. "That's when God answered me. He told me that my cupboard would never be barren as long as I live, that I would have food to eat and a house to live in."

A lengthy legal battle ensued. Darrell went through medical examinations and court trials. The ordeal paid off for Darrell as he won the case.

"The judge ruled the state of California would pay me a pension," he said. "They also would pay for all my medical expenses, and because I did not get a medical examination when I was terminated, they gave me state compensation for the rest of my life."

Bolich claims this was an unprecedented case. He knew he was blessed by God with the ruling from a judge who was a former state attorney with expertise in disability cases.

"If this isn't a promise kept by God, I don't know what is," he said.

Bolich moved back to Oklahoma, and he knew how God wanted him to use the money he was awarded. He remembered what God told him to do with his passion for mission work.

"My wife and I started a scholarship fund at OBU," he said. "We wanted to help students who will go into the mission field. One missionary will go win people to the Lord, and then we sponsor another student who will win more people to the Lord. That's why I wanted the scholarship to perpetuate because each person who receives the scholarship fund will finish school and go spread the gospel."

Students who receive the scholarship have sent him letters of appreciation and give him reports on their mission work. He said it touches his heart when he hears how they are sharing Christ all over the world.

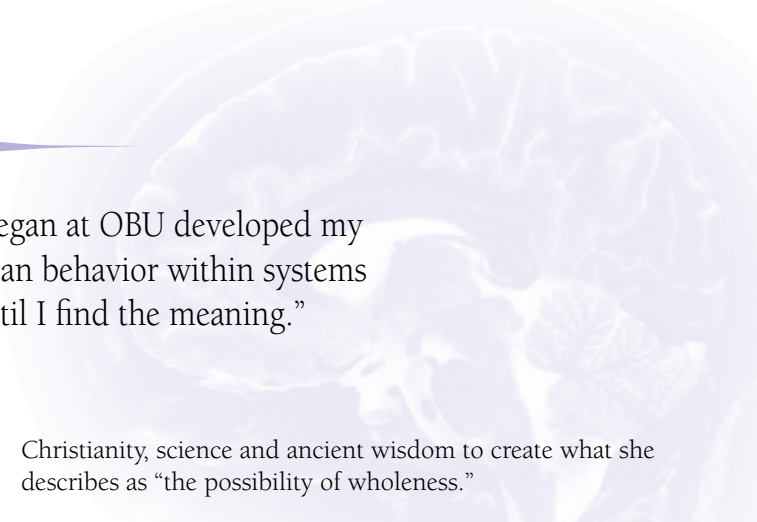
Earlier this year, Eunice passed away after battling poor health for years. For Darrell, the lasting impact of their shared ministry continues.

God blessed him during a time of need. Darrell, in turn, used the blessing to help others. It's another story of faithful giving and service. ♦



Unlocking Potential

Nancy Oelklaus is a catalyst for change. As an executive coach and author, she thrives in discovering what makes people tick – unlocking the secrets of the brain.



“The literature studies that began at OBU developed my ability to find themes in human behavior within systems and follow the theme until I find the meaning.”

Her fascination began early in her career as assistant superintendent for instructional services in Marshall, Texas.

“First I became curious about why it took so long for people to change, even when we hired the best consultants in the world and conducted training according to the latest research,” Oelklaus said. “How could we accelerate adult learning and change?”

After graduating from OBU in 1965 with a degree in communications/theater education, the former Nancy Eubanks earned a master's degree in English from the University of North Texas and a doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M University at Commerce. While on a career path to improve teaching and learning, she received a career-changing phone call from a colleague concerning a new study about the brain.

“Her words hit me right between the eyes, and I realized I had a lot to learn,” Oelklaus said. “So I got busy. What I'm most interested in is research on the emotional brain – how powerful it is.”

A highlight of her career is Project ABCD (Alternative Blueprint for Curriculum Development). Oelklaus worked in a collaborative effort with many school districts to pool human resources to write the best curriculum possible, reflecting the latest research and best practice.

“The year was 1991, just as the technology revolution was getting underway, and we decided to house the curriculum in software,” Oelklaus recalled. “It was one of the first such efforts. But the gift was not in being among the first to fuse curriculum and technology. ... I thought I had designed a process for *curriculum* development, and it turned out to be a great process for *professional* development.”

Today, Oelklaus uses her foundation in learning as an executive coach. She created The Success Accelerator® model of executive coaching to transform relationships and facilitate success. Her first book, *Journey from Head to Heart: Living and Working Authentically*, is scheduled for release in March 2008. The book “is for the weary and wary – people who are weary of ego-driven lives yet wary of ‘New Age’ approaches,” she said. The work integrates logic, reason, emotion, spirituality,

Christianity, science and ancient wisdom to create what she describes as “the possibility of wholeness.”

She has spoken throughout the United States and in Indonesia, Singapore and The Netherlands. She has released three CDs based on her work, including “The Eye of the Needle: Making Difficult Conversations Easier.” The communication tool Oelklaus developed, referenced on the CD, combines management skills and neuroscience.

“‘The Eye of the Needle’ is a tool for speaking the truth in love, which I understand, as Christians, we are commanded to do,” Oelklaus explained. “I found in my work as an executive coach that many problems are created when people don't manage their emotional energy well, either suppressing or indulging it.”

Oelklaus says the communication skills she learned at OBU have served her – and continue to serve her – extremely well. She recalls that professor Gregory Pritchard, through his rigor and encouragement, taught her to believe in herself. She also credits the literature studies on Bison Hill as a training ground for her current work.

“The literature studies that began at OBU developed my ability to find themes in human behavior within systems and follow the theme until I find the meaning,” she says. “Then I work with people to change the patterns that are not useful and strengthen those that are.”

Oelklaus and her husband, Harlan, also an executive coach, partner in their company based in Austin, Texas. Her hobbies include travel and photography. In fact, among her fond memories of OBU are the many evenings she sat on Raley Chapel's steps and watched the sunset. Since then, she said, she has taken many photographs of sunsets.

The sunset of her career is not on the horizon, however. She is thinking ahead to the next step in life. “Writing poetry is going to be my last career,” she said. “I'm saving the best for last.”

Her poetry has appeared in numerous publications, and she sends poetry to friends in greeting cards. She looks forward to unlocking her creativity through writing and publishing poems. Meanwhile, she continues her pursuit and passion for unlocking human potential. ♦

Community. *Compassion*

Jeanette Foster Bradshaw has never been partial to the big city. She grew up in Shawnee and favored the small town appeal.

"I've always liked the smaller community," she said.

And community is a common word in her vocabulary. An active resident of Stillwater for almost 40 years, Jeanette says community involvement is important to her well-being.

"If my community does not do well, I don't do well," she said. "This is a part of my life, and I've always been one to make an emphasis on community support."

Jeanette has been instrumental in the United Way's Day of Caring. She also is a board member for the local Salvation Army, participated with the Serendipity Book Club and Hideaway Investment Club and is a member of the American Business Women's Association.

Supporting her community was influential in her early years in Shawnee with her family. Her father, David Foster, came to OBU as a ministerial student, graduating in 1930. A bivocational minister, he also taught in public schools and was a hospital administrator.

His desire to be involved in local programs was passed on to Jeanette, who also followed her father's educational path.

"I didn't perceive I had a choice," she said, regarding her college decision. "He loved OBU, and I shared the same feelings. I knew at an early age it was where I would go to school."

Starting her freshman year, Jeanette also was employed at OBU. She worked in Paul Nance's office when he served as OBU's business manager.

"I worked the year round," she said. "I even worked during Christmas break. My life was pretty much centered on campus."

It was an adjustment at first. One OBU requirement she had to deal with was rooming with girls who were not from the same hometown. Jeanette also adjusted to the rule that students were not permitted to have cars, but she found a way around that.

"A friend of my mother lived in walking distance to the campus," she said. "I had a 1943 Chevy business coupe, and she allowed me to park it at her house."

A code system was developed with her friends and family to communicate about the car. If someone needed her car when she was working, Jeanette was told that "Myrtle" went to town.

Myrtle became pretty popular in her social circles. Eventually, Nance found out about the car's moniker, which was a surprise to Jeanette.



"He came up to me one day and asked, 'So how's Myrtle?'" she recalled with a laugh. "I was so shocked to find out he knew! Nothing became of it, but I could not believe he knew about Myrtle."

Finding out about Myrtle could be interpreted as a detriment to living in a small community. Word does travel fast. However, the speedy news factor did not hinder Jeanette's OBU experience.

"All my memories of OBU are pleasant," she said. "All of my professors were great and had my best interests at heart."

Jeanette enjoyed her speech classes and performing in plays. She has fond memories of Opal Craig and Rhetta May Dorland, taking Dr. Robert Laessig's German class and recalling the friendliness of "Uncle Jimmy," James Owens, who taught modern languages.

After graduation, she did graduate work at both the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University. While she was studying in Stillwater, she met her husband, Gerald.

After they were married, she joined her husband's family business of insurance and financial services. For 38 years, she has worked with Bradshaw Agency Inc., and currently as vice president of operations. She has been described as "the glue that holds the organization together."

Gerald and Jeanette have three children, David, Ann and Sara. They also have twin grandchildren, Adam and Katie. Sara is president of Bradshaw Agency and continues to promote the same family and community values Jeanette cherishes.

Along with being an adhesive element for business and community, Jeanette also has been faithful in her church. As

a charter member of Eagle Heights Baptist Church, she is instrumental in the growth of the young ministry.

"In the early years, we met at the junior high school," she said. "We did a lot of home group Bible studies, and we did our best to focus on individuals. We now have our own building that is debt free.

It has been a rewarding experience seeing how God has blessed our church and helped us grow."

Often the focus is on the civic leaders and politicians as the key contributors to the progress of a city or town. Without the help of those who work hard and remain active in the local functions, the overall success may never be possible.

Jeanette Bradshaw is one of those people, carrying on a life-long love of her community. ♦



From far left: Jeanette and her husband, Gerald, serve lunch each Thursday at Sunnybrook Christian School, where their grandchildren attend.

Jeanette serves on the Stillwater United Way Board and is especially involved with the Day of Caring.

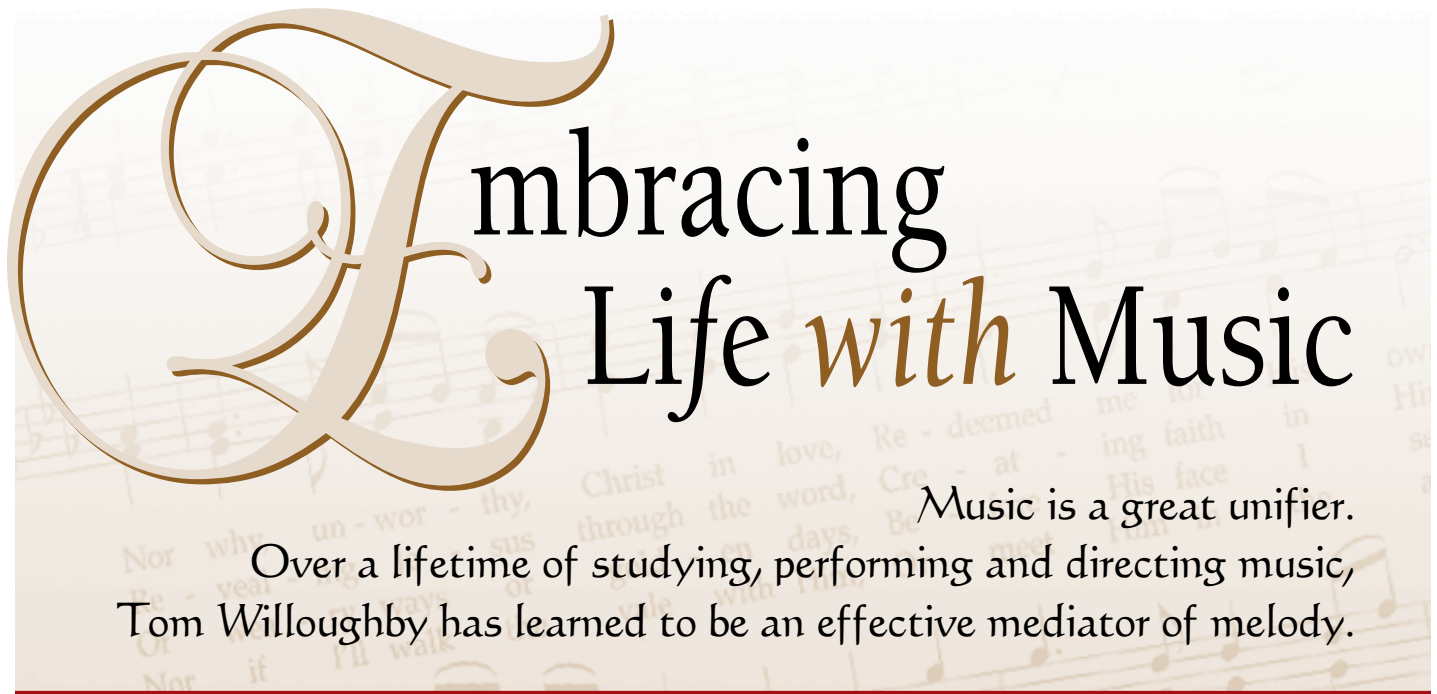
For eight years, Jeanette has operated the AWANA program store at Eagle Heights Baptist Church.

Jeanette works registration at Celebrate Stillwater.

She is involved with Celebrate Stillwater's Mega Sports Camp.

Jeanette works with the Stillwater Antique Car Club Show.





Growing up in Tyler, Texas, Tom knew God called him into music ministry in the late 1960s, when he was a senior in high school. He then met with Joe Carrell, his church music minister, about what he should do to pursue his calling.

“Do you know about OBU?” Carrell asked. He told Willoughby most of the music ministers who were “making a difference” in Southern Baptist churches were graduates of Oklahoma Baptist University.

It did not take long to convince Tom. He knew OBU was for him on his first trip to Shawnee.

“I fell in love immediately when I stepped on campus,” he said. “It was a warm, inviting community. When I met James Woodward, I knew he would be an excellent mentor.”

From the beginning, Willoughby plugged himself into OBU’s music program. Along with Dr. Woodward, dean of the Warren M. Angell College of Fine Arts, Tom learned from the legendary namesake of the college.

“It was a great honor to be influenced by Dr. Angell,” he said. “The entire faculty followed his leading by investing their lives into the lives of the students. Even after my college years, I can tell that is prevalent at OBU.”

It became common practice for Tom to play the piano during student recitals. One student – Nancy Kiehn – stood out for the young accompanist.

“Music did bring Nancy and me together,” he said. They were married in 1972, before Tom started his senior year.

Later that fall, Tom traveled to the Far East with the Tuneclippers, serving as pianist and business manager. As part of a USO Tour, the group visited southeast Asia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

While in the Philippines, President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. Communication both in and out of the country was prohibited while the Tuneclippers were there.

“All of our families did not know what was happening for days,” he said. “It was frightening as the security was heightened. But I also knew there was an awareness of God’s presence.”

Tom’s senior leadership was needed to help the group remain calm, even in a volatile environment. He also took a phone call from OBU President Bill Tanner, who was able to send a word of support and encouragement.

“He told me that we had much prayer support and that he would inform our families that we were safe,” Tom said. “He said we should remain there and continue doing the wonderful job of carrying the message of Christ. I was encouraged and grateful for Dr. Tanner for taking the time to make that call.”

After graduation, Tom worked on his master’s degree in church music at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and served as music associate at University Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. He credits Joe King, the church’s minister of music and a 1956 OBU graduate, for his on-the-job training.

“Joe gave me a tremendous opportunity to put my skills in good use every week,” he said.

Tom's first full-time position was serving as minister of music at First Baptist Church in Kingston, Tenn. He said his four years in the east Tennessee town were a wonderful start to ministry work.

Both of his children, Jennifer and Matthew, were born in Tennessee. Years later, they chose their parents' alma mater for themselves. Jennifer is a 1998 OBU graduate, and Matthew graduated in 2001.

The climate changed for Tom in 1979. He moved from the Smoky Mountains to the west Texas town of El Paso. He served as the minister of music and media at the First Baptist Church of El Paso.

"This was my first 'big city' experience," he said. "I went from a town of 4,000 people to a city of half a million. This opened me to a multicultural world of missions."

Serving on the Mexican border, Tom made friendships with International Mission Board missionaries who enlightened him about Hispanic ministries. He said it was an education to hear songs being sung in the "beauty of the Spanish language."

After three years in El Paso, Tom returned to Shawnee and served as music minister at the First Baptist Church, filling a position previously held by his mentors.

"I was able to connect with OBU once again," he said. "This was a special opportunity for me to lead music in the church Dr. Angell and Dr. Woodward once led."

For the past 22 years, Tom has served at the First Baptist Church of Lawton as the associate pastor for music and worship. Music is the core of his ministry, but he has embraced the expansion of pastoral care his current role offers.

Tom served as president of the Baptist Church Music Conference in 2005-06. He also has filled other elected positions, including president of Singing Churchmen of Oklahoma. He currently is a committee member for a new hymn book, *Celebrating Grace – Hymnal For Baptist Worship*, which will be published soon.

With the transition that church music has experienced in recent years, Tom has worked with the different styles of



music. He knows when it comes to singing in church, "one size doesn't fit all."

"God is at work in many kinds of music in churches," he said. "I embrace all styles of music and how they touch people during worship."

He said FBC decided to handle the music transition through a corporate effort.

"We made a collaborative decision to offer different styles, but the best way for a church to decide is to be together on the decision," he said. "Different people have different perspectives on music, but it is important for a church to be unified in how they choose to worship."

Whether he is in the middle of political unrest in the Philippines or in the middle of a transitional period for church music, Tom Willoughby has fulfilled Joe Carrell's prompting. He is making a difference. ♦

Carey O'Bryan, '35



A Determined Dreamer

Carey O'Bryan Jr. dreamed he would become a pilot. The small town boy, born just a dozen years after the Wright Brothers achieved flight, fulfilled his big dream. He also has experienced adventures beyond his wildest dreams.

O'Bryan was valedictorian of his senior class in Earlsboro. He attended Oklahoma Military Academy in Claremore for a year, hoping for acceptance at the United States Military Academy.

After failing to win the West Point appointment, he transferred to OBU. His father was a Baptist preacher and editor of the Earlsboro paper. That offered a natural transition for O'Bryan when he needed a college job.

"I worked in the OBU print shop, operating the linotype machine," he said. "My dad had me operate a similar machine at his newspaper shop. I thought I found a gold mine when I got paid 18 cents an hour to do the same thing at OBU."

By his senior year, O'Bryan ran the print shop. He printed many jobs for the Shawnee community, as well as publications of the *Baptist Messenger*.

After O'Bryan graduated in 1935, he made another attempt at West Point. He was an alternate on Senator T.P. Gore's list, but the man ahead of Carey accepted the spot. An odd series of events then changed his fortunes.

"Senator Gore discovered that five guys failed their mental examinations," he said.

O'Bryan was working in a print shop in Kingfisher when Gore's secretary called and told him to report. After OBU sent

his transcript and a letter of recommendation to West Point, O'Bryan was accepted "without examination." It helped that he graduated near the top of his class.

He graduated from West Point in 1940 and was accepted into the Army Air Corps. O'Bryan's first stop for flight training was in Tulsa. He was then assigned to March Air Force Base in California.

By the spring of 1941, O'Bryan was stationed in Albuquerque, N.M. On a trip to Kansas City, he and his friends became acquainted with some ladies who worked with Trans World Airlines. Carey had his eye on one of the ladies, Betty Buchor, and knew he would see her again.

"I overheard them saying that they would be transferring to Albuquerque," he said.

After Betty made her move to New Mexico, Carey made his move to get to know her better. They were married in September that year.

Three months later, Pearl Harbor was attacked. Carey already was involved in moving fighter planes to the Philippines before the Japanese strike. Seventy planes were flown over the Pacific two months before December 7.

As America entered World War II, O'Bryan served in General Douglas MacArthur's bomber command, flying across the Pacific Theater.

O'Bryan flew MacArthur from the Philippines to Australia when the general was the target of Japanese air attacks.

O'Bryan received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his role in protecting the Allied Forces commander.

Back in Oklahoma, the "hometown boy" was highly publicized as a war hero. On July 19, 1942, *The Daily Oklahoman* ran a lengthy article with multiple pictures, telling O'Bryan's life story up to that point.

Along with MacArthur, O'Bryan served other significant national figures and was instrumental in other major events. He worked with the Manhattan Project, serving General Leslie Groves. From 1951-52, he was commander of the U.S. Atomic Weapons Stockpile Storage Site.

From 1954-58, he worked with the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the Division of Military Applications with responsibility for oversight of three weapons labs for research and development, test, production and storage of the entire national atomic weapons program.

In 1957, he was nuclear weapons advisor to Ambassador Harold Stassen for disarmament talks in London. In 1966, he represented U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara in a briefing with heads of state and military services in Australia and New Zealand.

O'Bryan retired from the military in the late 1960s. He then taught business administration, first at the University of New Mexico and later at the University of Albuquerque.

Along the way, he earned a master's degree in industrial management at the University of the Philippines, a master's degree in economics at the Industrial College of Armed Forces, and an electrical engineering degree from Columbia University. O'Bryan completed course work for a Ph.D. degree, but his military commitments interrupted his dissertation work.

In 1985, he retired from the University of Albuquerque and was named professor emeritus. At 91, O'Bryan still lives in Albuquerque. He and Betty raised three children, Carey III, Robert and Patricia. Betty passed away in 1996, and he has since married Winnifred Perry Byrnes.

He also keeps up with his sister, Kathyne O'Bryan Timberlake, retired OBU music professor. And he contributes to his alma mater while remembering three special women in his life.

He supports OBU through the Kathyne O'Bryan Timberlake Scholarship, the Betty O'Bryan Endowment and the Winnifred P. Byrnes Scholarship. In turn, Winnifred is honoring Cary with providing the Carey Law O'Bryan Scholarship to OBU.

O'Bryan can tell a vast array of stories about the places he has been and the people he has met. It makes one wonder what might have happened if those five men had passed their mental examinations. ♦



Col. O'Bryan, right, flight leader of the 13th Air Force "attackers," talks with British Air Marshal Sir Clifford Sanderson, commander of the British Far East Air Forces, at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines.

(U.S. AIR FORCE PHOTO)



Cmdr. O'Bryan, left, hosts Jordan's King Hussein, center, at Kirtland Air Force Base in 1952, shortly after the 17-year-old assumed the throne of Jordan.



O'Bryan, right, talks with Group Captain John Warfield, commander of Changi Station, Singapore.



Col. O'Bryan, left, vice commander of the Air Force Special Weapons Center at Kirtland Air Force Base, and U.S. Sen. Clinton Anderson.



O'Bryan, right, while deputy commander of the 13th Air Force, with Gen. Wang Shu Ming, left, commander of the Chinese Air Force, Taipei; and Gen. John W. Sessums Jr., commander of the 13th Air Force at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines in the early 1950s.

Recipe For Life

.25 gallon of Love
.5 quart of Loyalty
.75 quart of Forgiveness
.25 quart of Friendship

.5 spoon of Hope
.125 spoon of Tenderness
.25 gallon of Faith
1 barrel of Laughter

Take Love and Loyalty, mix it thoroughly with Faith
Blend it with Tenderness, Kindness & Understanding
Sprinkle abundantly with Laughter.
Bake it with Sunshine.
Serve daily with Generous helpings.



Debbie McBee, '76



Blending Life Skills and Math

"During the cooking lessons is when all the behavioral lessons we have practiced come out."



As an elementary education major at OBU, Debbie Lott McBee took one special education class and decided she would never teach in that area. Things change. Today, she's a hit with students at a Washington State correctional facility, specializing in behavior disorders.

Echo Glen Children's Center in Snoqualmie, Wash., is a juvenile detention center where young offenders serve their sentences. The center partners with Issaquah School District to provide a quality education to the young people housed there. Debbie landed in Washington with her husband, college beau David McBee, who is from the Evergreen State. A native of Pennsylvania, Debbie credits OBU with bringing the pair together.

Once in Washington, Debbie was a substitute teacher at Echo Glen, calming a rowdy class whose members reportedly stabbed and otherwise harassed their full-time instructor. When the teacher resigned, the principal received 500 applications and conducted 30 interviews – but he wanted McBee in the slot. However, the 1976 OBU graduate had not earned her secondary education endorsement, and family finances weren't equipped to cover graduate classes.

But Debbie stepped out on faith – with encouragement from her husband – and began studies at Seattle University. On her first night in class, she received a full scholarship.

"This job is where God put me," she said. "He put it in my heart that I love this place and I love the kids."

McBee teaches math – in a very creative way – and parenting skills. The parenting classes include talk about birth control, choosing when to become a parent and making wise choices (such as adoption) for unborn children.

"We try to stop the cycle because these kids are having kids at age 14 or 15, then we get their kids when they are 14 or 15," she said.

In her 17 years at the facility, McBee has discovered that not all kids – or parents – view it as a particularly bad place to be. For some juveniles, it is the safest place they've known. And from the families' perspectives, "it's almost like a right of passage rather than a bad thing," she said.

Echo Glen is more of a rehabilitation center than a prison, McBee said. She focuses on teaching kids how to respect adults and function well as they return to society.

Most kids at the facility don't function well even in their classrooms, lacking skills to relate to their teachers. But both students and faculty recognize McBee as an unflappable model of patience, immune to anger.

"I look at it this way: God placed this person in my class for a reason," she said. "If they see Jesus in me, I'm the only Christ they've known. So I have a job to do there."

She lets her students know why she teaches at Echo Glen.

"God showed me I had to decide who I'm going to be regardless of what's going on around me," she tells them. "I'm here to be a good model for you."

McBee discovered a unique way to teach her students math: a two-hour cooking class. In a hands-on environment, her students learn how to build thinking skills while they learn to relate to their classmates respectfully. If the curriculum calls for converting decimals to fractions, McBee gives her students a recipe with decimals and they make the conversions before they cook. Then they practice their life skills while they relate to one another in the kitchen.

"I create a one-on-one situation where I can interact and correct students without doing it in front of the group," she explained. "During the cooking lessons is when all the behavioral lessons we have practiced come out."

McBee's influence at Echo Glen positively impacts both students and faculty. She facilitates reconciliation between teachers who are resistant to certain students because of past behavioral issues, and students who want to do better. One student, who completed the mandatory sentence and then did well in society, nominated McBee as a recipient of Who's Who of American Teachers.

She also uses her behavioral studies to carefully share her foundation for life – her faith in God. While legally she cannot overtly state she pulls lessons from scripture, she is quick to answer in the affirmative if a student asks her directly.

"In teaching life skills, I teach them Proverbs," she said. "My students all know that a soft word turns away wrath."

McBee truly cares for her students, just as she felt two OBU professors, the late Dr. Jeff Black and Dr. Norman Searcy, showed her personal care during her years on Bison Hill. Both teachers, in biology and elementary education, respectively, went out of their way to determine areas of personal growth for her, and then follow through on relevant teachings.

"What I got from both of them was not necessarily academic, but how they both looked underneath to see what I needed personally," she said.

It's with the same concern that McBee touches young lives today. ♦

U.S. News and Princeton Review List OBU Among "Best"

The streak continues for OBU. For the 14th consecutive year, Oklahoma Baptist University is the state's highest rated baccalaureate college in the *U.S. News & World Report* annual rankings of "America's Best Colleges." In the 2008 ratings, released in August, OBU is ranked third in the West.

In addition to the ranking for overall academic quality, OBU was the highest-ranked private institution in the magazine's "Great Schools, Great Prices" category for the western region.

OBU has made the news magazine's "top 10" in its category for 16 consecutive years. In the latest rankings, the United States Air Force Academy, in Colorado Springs, Colo., is first in the 15-state region. The Master's College and Seminary (Calif.) is second, followed by OBU.

"We again welcome this external affirmation," said OBU President Mark

Brister. "This kind of recognition is an affirmation of our faculty members, who are investing their lives in educating future leaders."

According to *U.S. News*, baccalaureate colleges are institutions which "focus on undergraduate education and offer a range of degree programs – in the liberal arts, which account for fewer than half of their bachelor's degrees, and in professional fields such as business, nursing, and education." A total of 320 colleges are included in the baccalaureate category for four regions: North, South, Midwest and West.

The "Great Schools, Great Prices" listing is derived from a formula which "relates a school's academic quality, as indicated by its *U.S. News* ranking, to the net cost of attendance for a student who receives the average level of need-based financial aid."

OBU also is one of 123 schools receiving The Princeton Review's "Best in the West" designation for 2008, based on the publication's student

opinion data collected from colleges and universities across the nation. The annual listing was released in late August.

According to the educational research firm's website, colleges selected for the designation must meet two criteria: "First, they had to meet our standards for academic excellence within their region. Second, we had to be able to survey their students anonymously, either through our online survey, or through our paper survey, which we distribute and collect on campus."

"We commend these institutions for their excellent academics," said Robert Franek, publisher and editorial director for the annual publication.

OBU is one of seven schools from the state of Oklahoma receiving this merit. Oklahoma Christian University, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University, the University of Oklahoma and the University of Tulsa also made the list.

ZIP. BANG. WELCOME TO OBU.

Welcome Week officially kicked off the fall semester as volunteer Welcome Week Workers helped new students adjust to life on Bison Hill. The orientation activities included The Walk on Tuesday evening before classes started Wednesday, August 22. Above, Tri-Ws recite Ka-Rip to the beanie-wearing new students in front of Raley Chapel. Welcome Week included an array of small group gatherings, a book study, and community service work.



OBU Receives Perfect Pass Rating in Teacher Ed Exams

OBU teacher education majors fared well on spring 2007 certification examinations for Oklahoma Educators.

CEOE pass rates were recently released on examinees from the 22 teacher education institutions in Oklahoma. All 52 OBU teacher education students passed the Oklahoma Professional Teaching Examination (OPTE), making OBU one of six institutions with perfect pass ratings. Of those six schools, OBU had the highest number of students passing the exam.

"This pass rate is an indicator of the high quality of teacher candidates we have, as well as faculty who understand teaching and are able to effectively impart their knowledge of teaching principles," said Dr. Pam Robinson, dean of OBU's College of Arts and Sciences. "Pedagogy (or principles of teaching) is the focus of the OPTE, and I believe that pedagogy is one of our teacher education program's strong points."

CEOE states the OPTE is designed to assess professional knowledge and skills needed by entry-level Oklahoma educators. Each OPTE includes approximately 75 selected-response questions and a constructed-response section which consists of three written performance assignments.

"I was very pleased with the results," said Dr. John Farris, chair of OBU's division of teacher education. "We are sending quality teachers to the classrooms. This, in turn, has a significant effect on children in school."

Farris credits the efforts of OBU's teacher education faculty for the perfect pass rates. He said each faculty member spends at least 10 hours each semester in the school classroom and in the field, apart from OBU courses.

Along with the OPTE, the CEOE program offers two other categories of tests.

Students, ranging from sophomores to seniors, take the Oklahoma General Education Test, which assesses core education knowledge. The Oklahoma Subject Area Tests are designed to assess specific subject-matter knowledge and skills.

Of the total participants in the three exams, OBU students had a pass rating of 97.2 percent, ranking second among Oklahoma's colleges and universities' teacher education programs.

Two Professors Fill OBU Endowed Academic Chairs

Two OBU professors were installed to new academic chairs in May, filling posts provided by estate gifts from Tulsa residents who were longtime supporters of the university.

Dr. Jeanne Akin, OBU associate professor of teacher education, and Dr. Dan Reeder, OBU professor of business, were installed into the academic positions during the university's awards assembly.



AKIN

Akin holds the Mary A. White Chair of Teacher Education. Reeder holds the Albert J. Geiger Chair of Business.

Endowed chairs enhance salary, benefits, and certain expenses, such as travel, research, or secretarial assistance. Historically, faculty members holding endowed positions are considered among the institution's

most distinguished faculty members. This chair position requires a minimum endowment of at least \$500,000.

Mary Augusta White's career as a kindergarten teacher spanned 41 years. She taught in several Tulsa elementary schools, as well as Holland Hall. A member of the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, she participated in missions organizations and was a teacher in Sunday School and Training Union for 33 years. She was a member of several educational and civic organizations.

The only child of an apple farmer and school teacher, White was born in Bentonville, Ark. Her family moved to Bixby early in her childhood. She was an alumna of the University of Missouri, the University of Iowa, and the University of Tulsa. She died January 19, 2006, at the age of 93.

"Mary White sowed seeds for Christ throughout a 41-year teaching career," said Akin, who joined the OBU faculty in 1996. "Through her gracious generosity and well-thought life, she has made possible for OBU to add, exponentially, to her seed-sowing for the Kingdom. With God's help, I want to walk worthy of her investment of resources."

Reeder joined the OBU faculty in 1991. He teaches a variety of courses in finance and investments. He served as dean of OBU's Paul Dickinson School of Business from 1999-2004.



REEDER

"Given Mr. and Mrs. Geiger's dedication, service and love for Oklahoma Baptist University, I am honored to be the recipient of the

Geiger Chair. They are an example of excellence, hard work and integrity,” said Reeder.

Al Geiger’s relationship with OBU began through the courtship of his future wife, Laura Belle Lawson, a 1938 OBU graduate. The couple was married in 1940 in the parlor of OBU’s WMU Memorial Dormitory.

A former chairman of OBU’s board of trustees, Geiger served four terms on the board over several decades. In 1988, he was named an honorary alumnus by the OBU Alumni Association, and in 1996 he received an honorary doctorate from the university.

OBU’s Geiger Center for University Life was named in recognition of the Geigers’ leadership and contributions to university life.

Geiger was born in Dewey, Okla., and earned a petroleum engineering degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1939. He formed a business as an independent oil producer in 1954. He retired in 1990. A longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Tulsa, he was a Sunday School teacher and served as a deacon for more than 40 years. Geiger died August 25, 2005, at the age of 89.

OBU currently has 11 endowed academic chairs and 12 endowed academic professorship positions.

Winterberg Named Global Outreach Coordinator

Steve Winterberg was named the second global coordinator for the Avery T. Willis Center of Global Outreach, replacing the founding coordinator, Matthew Willis.

Winterberg joined OBU in the summer, after serving as an international mobilizer at Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, for two years.

Winterberg earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Baylor University and a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary. Throughout college and seminary, he worked in youth and children’s ministry.

“I am excited about what God has done at OBU through the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach, and even more excited about the potential that is in OBU students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters to reach the nations for His name’s sake,” he said.

Willis, ’05, resigned to pursue full-time graduate study. Willis had worked with the center since its inception in 2005.

During the 2006-07 year, the center coordinated eight GO Trips, with 60 participants. Ten graduates entered the International Mission Board’s two-year Journeyman program during the year.

Seven Join Faculty

Seven educators joined the OBU faculty for the fall 2007 semester.

Dr. Andrew Armond, assistant professor of English, moved to OBU after teaching at Belmont Abbey College. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English and music from Louisiana Tech University, and a master’s degree in English language and literature and a Ph.D. degree in English from Baylor University.

Canaan Crane, who had served as OBU’s director of student services, university counselor and adjunct professor of psychology, was promoted to assistant professor of psychology. He earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees at OBU and is a Ph.D. degree candidate at Oklahoma State University.

Ronald Lana, associate professor of art, came to OBU after teaching at

Grand Canyon University. He earned a bachelor’s degree in commercial art from the University of Oklahoma and a master’s degree from Marywood University.

Timothy McCollum, assistant professor of anthropology, began his first semester at OBU after spending five years as a graduate fellow and graduate assistant at Indiana University. He earned a bachelor’s degree from OBU and did post baccalaureate study at the University of Oklahoma. He earned master’s degrees at both the University of Tulsa and Indiana University, and is a Ph.D. degree candidate at IU.

Timothy Miller, assistant professor of philosophy, joined the OBU faculty after teaching four years at the University of Oklahoma. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Cedarville University, and a master’s degree from Trinity International University. He is a Ph.D. degree candidate at OU.

Steven Phillips, assistant professor of accounting, worked with Phillips Accounting and Consulting in Missouri for the past three years. He earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Missouri-Rolla. He also earned a master’s degree in accountancy from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Lori Vicsek, assistant professor of nursing, moved to OBU from Redlands Community College, where she was director of the nursing program. She earned an associate’s degree from Redlands Community College and a bachelor’s degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She earned a master’s degree in nursing education from the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center.

OBU has a 110 full-time faculty members and a student-to-faculty ratio of 15 to 1.

Five Alumni Honored at Homecoming

Five OBU graduates will be honored during the University's annual Homecoming Harvest Dinner at 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, in OBU's Geiger Center.

Two graduates will receive the OBU Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award. Lawrence Harris, '41, a retired oil businessman from Roswell, N.M., and Joel Hefley, '57, a retired U.S. Congressman from Colorado Springs, Colo., were elected by the association's board of directors for the association's top honor.

Carrie Phillips Underwood, '01, will receive the Graduate Of the Last Decade (GOLD) Alum of the Year Award. She serves as deputy director of policy and projects for U.S. First Lady Laura Bush.

Basketball standout Jerry Lester, '59, and track All-American Brandy Bratton Lusk, '02, will be inducted into OBU's Athletic Hall of Fame.

The OBU Alumni Association's Alumni Achievement Award is given "in recognition of outstanding life service which has brought honor to the individual's alma mater."

The Graduate of the Last Decade (GOLD) Alum of the Year Award is presented annually to a young alum of OBU who, in his or her life and career, "has demonstrated outstanding achievement and brought pride and honor to the university."

Harris began working in the oil and gas industry in 1952. He helped develop the Independent Petroleum Association of New Mexico, a trade organization for the independent segment of the oil and gas industry.

An active member of the Roswell community, Harris served 10 years on the local board of education. He served

on the board of directors of the National School Boards Association and Executive Committee for five years. In that role, he represented an 11-state region.

He was instrumental in the development of Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell. Harris also served in a leadership role in developing public support for bond issues for educational institutions.

Harris and his late wife, Marian, have three children.

Hefley served in the U.S. House of Representatives for 20 years, representing Colorado's 5th District. He was assistant minority whip from 1989-94, and chairman of the House Committee on Standards for Official Conduct, commonly known as the House Ethics Committee, from 2001-05.

Hefley was a member of the House Armed Services Committee for 18 years. He chaired the subcommittee on readiness and the subcommittee on military installations and facilities during his tenure.

His political career also includes serving in the Colorado State House of Representatives from 1977-79 and the Colorado State Senate from 1979-86.



HARRIS



HEFLEY

A native of Ardmore, Okla., Hefley earned a master of science degree from Oklahoma State University. He also was a Gates fellow at Harvard University. He and his wife, Lynn, have three daughters and five grandchildren.

Underwood has served on Mrs.

Bush's staff since May 2007. She was offered the position after working with TRI Leadership Resources (TeamTRI), a nationwide leadership development, event planning and management company founded by her husband, Ryan.



UNDERWOOD

TeamTRI was selected to run conferences for President Bush's Helping America's Youth initiative, and managed the Preserve America Summit.

A native of Owasso, Underwood earned a master's degree in occupational and adult education, with an emphasis in human resource development, from Oklahoma State University in 2003.

Since its founding in 1969, 95 individuals have been inducted into the OBU Athletic Hall of Fame. The hall was formed to pay tribute to men and women who have helped bring honor and recognition to OBU through their achievements on the playing fields, or to those persons who by their deeds have made outstanding contributions to overall athletic program.

Continued on next page

HOMECOMING

Five Honored At Homecoming

Continued from previous page

Lester led the OBU men's basketball in scoring in 1957-58 with 18 points per game and again in the next season, averaging 15.3 points. The Bison won the NAIA District 9 title in 1958, reaching the NAIA Tournament for the first time.



LESTER, OBU 1958

Lester was a two-time All-Oklahoma Collegiate Athletic Conference selection.

Lusk was a three-time national champion, winning the national title in the indoor and outdoor 800 meters in 2002 and anchoring the outdoor 4x800 relay in 2001.

When Lusk graduated, she had accumulated more than 10 OBU records, three national titles, 10 indoor track All-America awards, and seven All-America awards for outdoor track. She holds the distinction of being OBU's only four-time cross-country All-American.



LUSK

She holds the distinction of being OBU's only four-time cross-country All-American.



Give an OBU Student Your Most Priceless Possession: Time

"In today's complex working world, a college graduate is faced with an array of career possibilities," said Stephanie Barbour Miller, '94, OBU's career services counselor. "While that seems like a great problem to have, it can be overwhelming for a student or recent college graduate, or an alum looking for a career change."

"The university classroom provides an excellent base upon which to build, but many times the deciding factor is what happens in the 'real world,'" said Miller. "No amount of textbook information can help someone see a career 'up close and personal.'"

Alumni and friends interested in helping OBU students learn more about occupations, job searching, and the important process of networking are eligible to be OBU Bison Network volunteers. The volunteers are comprised of alumni, employers, and parents of OBU students.

"Network volunteers agree to share career information, advice or contacts for OBU students and recent graduates. They are not asked to provide students with jobs or internship opportunities," said Lori Hagans, executive director of the OBU Alumni Association.

Volunteers are encouraged to register online to join the Bison Network. The registration link is available from the Alumni main page at www.okbu.edu/alumni.

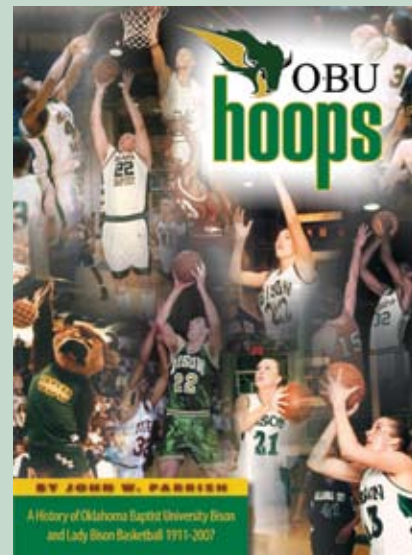
New Book Chronicles OBU's Storied Basketball History

From its early, rocky beginnings through today's nationally ranked teams, OBU basketball has a rich history. That legacy is the focus of *OBU Hoops*, a new book which is part of the University's Centennial Series.

Written by John W. Parrish, OBU executive vice president emeritus, *OBU Hoops* chronicles Bison basketball from 1911 through 2007, and Lady Bison basketball from its start in 1977 through the 2006-07 season.

The book includes season-by-season summaries, team rosters, game scores, individual and team statistics, and individual and team records. There are more than 100 photographs in the hard-cover, 320-page "coffee table" edition.

OBU Hoops will be released in late November. Copies may be ordered during Homecoming. The book is available for purchase by calling 405.878.2706. An online order form is available at www.okbu.edu/alumni. Cost of the book is \$24.95, with a \$3 shipping and handling fee.



Making a Difference Through a Unique Ministry

A summer conference brought Nicole Cummings the resources and confidence to begin a program in the Shawnee area.

The 2007 elementary education graduate used her abilities to make an impact in the community through dance.

In 2006, Cummings applied to attend the Leadership and Women of Color conference in Baltimore, after learning about it from one of her professors. She was selected out of the 650 applicants to be one of the 51 students selected.

"We were able to meet a ton of women in leadership. We went to different places, like the CIA, to see how these women, especially women of color, were leaders in their positions," said Cummings. "We were able to learn how to carry on business in a classy way with morals and values, especially Christian values."

The conference participants each received a stipend to begin a program which would benefit a community.

"Each woman was given the opportunity to pursue their goals. We all have the same goal of impacting the world in some way through our different avenues," said Cummings.

Passion to help led her to "7:57," a Monday night youth ministry coordinated by OBU graduates Brad and Alicja "Al" Carter. Cummings asked the 7:57 leadership board about beginning new programs within their ministry.

She helped launch a dance group, helping kids bring their skills together to create and perform routines.

"It was amazing to see their attitudes change," said Cummings. "The kids had never completed something, so it was great to see their success."

Cummings' passion for the kids pushed her to invest more than an hour a week with them.

"It's a great ministry outlet," said Cummings. "I tried to see the kids more than once a week. We'd go to their basketball games and track meets."

The leadership role had a personal aspect too.

"This helped me stay on top of how I live," she said. "There are people watching all the time."

"Something that I have learned is when God calls you to do something, you will

see the dedication in yourself as well as others," she said.

"You have so much more success when you are 'called' to something rather than just signing up for it."

The 7:57 experience also opened doors she never expected to walk through.

"I had never had the opportunity to start and facilitate a program. I had only taught," said Cummings. "My goal is to eventually open a Christian fine arts company."

Encouragement from her professors helped the emerging leader stay focused.

"I had a lot of support from the education faculty," said Cummings. "They came to see us perform and were really excited about what we were doing."

Cummings' focus did not alter after graduation. The recent OBU grad now attends Kanakuk Institute in Branson, Mo., working

toward a master's degree in youth and family ministry.

"The program helps you train for a ministry and prepares you for the different ministries you would be involved in at church or in your personal life," said Cummings.

Though she no longer lives in Shawnee, her connection with the 7:57 program has not changed.

"I talk to the kids all the time. They are starting up dance soon and they're really excited," said Cummings.

While Cummings' personal passion for kids and dance led her to establish the program, 7:57 ministry leaders want to develop and invest in the program more and hopefully see it expand.

"They plan on continuing the dance program and are going to start a program for young mothers soon. I'm excited that they're keeping it up," she said.



Nicole Cummings, front center seated, with Shawnee High School students who participated in the 7:57 ministry program last spring.

Own A Piece Of Hardwood History



ACTUAL SIZE

OBU's historic Clark Craig Fieldhouse was home to some of the best NAIA basketball competition in history. The arena overflowed with fans from across the state in the mid-1960s, when Coach Bob Bass and Al Tucker led the Bison to three straight national championship games.

The aging fieldhouse was razed in 2006 to make way for OBU's new recreation and wellness center, but the memories will endure, and OBU alumni and friends can have a lasting reminder of the glory days of Bison basketball. For a contribution of \$50 or more to support OBU athletics, you will receive an actual piece of the Clark Craig floor, complete with a commemorative plaque. This historic artifact can compliment a desk, bookcase, or memorabilia collection and serve as a reminder of OBU's storied basketball history.

Copy the form below or call 405.878.2703 to make your contribution to help continue the success of OBU Athletics.

☐ **Yes, I want to support OBU's athletic program and have a part in the success of Bison and Lady Bison student athletes.**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

My Gift is \$ _____

My Pledge is \$ _____, to be given \$ _____ per mo/yr for _____ mos/ysr.

GIFT DESIGNATION

☐ Basic Budget ☐ Equipment ☐ Scholarships
☐ Facilities ☐ Other (specify) _____

Make checks payable to OBU.

Mail to BAA, OBU, 500 W. University, Shawnee, OK 74804

A Popular Place To Gather



For six decades, Montgomery Hall was a central part of the OBU campus community. Serving a variety of purposes during its first life, the building was most popular as the student center. In this 1958 photograph, students enjoy the patio on the east side of Montgomery Hall, facing the Oval. It offered a prime vantage point to watch campus traffic. The original structure was razed in the late 1980s, but the name lives on as a new Montgomery Hall opened in 1989 on University Street. The new structure houses OBU's Campus Ministry Office and the Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach, as well as classrooms and meeting rooms.



Oklahoma Baptist
UNIVERSITY

500 W. University
Shawnee, OK 74804

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
Oklahoma City, OK
Permit #1

O.B.U.
m a g a z i n e